

Message Text

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17-12

ORIGIN PC-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-20 RSC-01 /047 R

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R 052329Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, NI

SUBJECT: PC PROGRAM NIGERIA

REF: LAGOS 9419, STATE 228615

JOINT STATE/PEACE CORPS MESSAGE

1. AFTER THOROUGH CONSIDERATION REFTTEL, PEACE CORPS IS WILLING ALLOW FMG AND EMBASSY REFER TO VOLUNTEERS AS AMERICAN VOLUNTEER COACHES. THIS CONCESSION IS MADE, AS WAS EARLIER ONE ON ISSUE OF RESIDENT STAFF, IN ORDER PROMOTE BROADER INTERESTS NIGERIAN PEOPLE AND USG.

2. HOWEVER, PC CANNOT LEGALLY REQUIRE NOR GUARANTEE TO AMBASSADOR, NSC OR FMG THAT VOLUNTEERS MAY NOT SOMETIMES REFER TO THEMSELVES AS PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. PC/W STILL CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR VOLUNTEERS TO DENY THEIR PC AFFILIATION WHEN ASKED THEIR IDENTITY. PC ORIENTATION OF VOLUNTEERS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR NIGERIA WILL COVER SENSITIVE ISSUES, INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEACE CORPS NAME. STATE AF WILL PARTICIPATE IN BRIEFING

AND, OF COURSE, EMBASSY WILL HAVE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES
TALK WITH VOLUNTEERS ON ARRIVAL. WISH POINT OUT, HOWEVER-
THAT PC CANNOT TERMINATE SERVICES OF A VOLUNTEER FOR
REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS PCV BECAUSE IN FACT AND BY LAW HE
WILL HAVE BEEN SWORN IN AS PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.

3. FURTHER, FACT THAT PEACE CORPS IS ACTIVE IN NIGERIA
CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE HIDDEN FROM CONGRESS, OMB, PRESS
AND PUBLIC IN US. PC PROGRAM IN NIGERIA WILL BE MATTER OF
PUBLIC RECORD IN U.S.

4. GIVEN FMG'S SENSITIVITY TO PC PRESENCE AND NSC'S
APPARENT DESIRE KEEP IDENTITY OFFICIALLY HIDDEN,
POSSIBILITY IS RAISED THAT WE ARE GIVING HOSTAGE TO
FORTUNE. WHAT IS LIKLIHOOD THAT FMG MAY SUDDENLY QUOTE
DISCOVER UNQUOTE PC IN ITS MIDST AND EXPELL IT FOR REASONS
UNRELATED TO PC ACTIVITY? IN LIGHT SMALL SIZE AND IMPACT
OF PROGRAM, PC/W SERIOUSLY QUESTIONS WHETHER RISK IS WORTH
TAKING AND REQUESTS EMBASSY COUNSEL THIS ISSUE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE238548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COLBOURN/C.STEEDMAN:DDL:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731242/aaaabfcc.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAGOS 9419, STATE 228615
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PC PROGRAM NIGERIA
TAGS: APER, NI
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005